

ATHENE MARGARET DONALD, DBE FRS

Curriculum Vitae

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Present Employment :

1998- Professor of Experimental Physics, Department of Physics
2014- Master of Churchill College

Previous employment:

1977 - 81 PDRA Cornell University (Department of Materials Science and Engineering),
1981 - 3 SERC Fellowship held at the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science, University of Cambridge.
1983 - 5 Royal Society 1983 Research Fellowship held at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.
1985 - 95 Lecturer in the Department of Physics, University of Cambridge.
1995- 8 Reader in Experimental Physics, University of Cambridge
2003- 10 Deputy Head (with responsibility for Finance and Resources from 2005-10)
1981- 2014 Fellow of Robinson College

Education :

1971 - 4 Cambridge University, B.A.
1974 - 7 Cambridge University, Ph.D.

Prizes and Honours

1989 Charles Vernon Boys Prize of the Institute of Physics.
1989 Samuel Locker Award in Physics (University of Birmingham; £5000)
1995 Rosenhain Medal and Prize (Institute of Materials)
1999 Elected Fellow of the Royal Society
2003 William Hopkins Prize of the Cambridge Philosophical Society
2005 Mott Medal of the Institute of Physics
2006 Bakerian Lecturer of the Royal Society
2009 Laureate for Europe, L'Oreal/UNESCO For Women for Science Awards
2009 Elected to the Academia Europaea
2009 Founders' Prize, Polymer Physics Group of the Institute of Physics
2010 Fellow of the Science Museum, London
2010 IOP Faraday Gold Medal
2010 Mott Lecturer for the IOP's Condensed Matter and Materials Physics Division
2010 Appointed DBE in the Birthday Honours
2011 UKRC Women of Outstanding Achievement Award: Lifetime Achievement
2012 Honorary DSc's from Exeter University and UEA
2013 Elected Fellow of the European Academy of Science

2013 One of MRC's Suffrage Science winners for 2013
2013 Honorary DSc from University of Sheffield
2014 Rideal Prize Lecturer of the SCI
2014 Honorary DSc from Swansea University and UCL
2014 Appeared in Science Council's top 100 UK practising scientists (in Communicator category)
2014 Campbell Lecturer University of Southampton
2014 Lewis Elton Lecture, University of Surrey
2015 Geiringer Lecture Harvard University
2015 Honorary DSc's from Universities of Manchester, Liverpool and Heriot Watt
2015 Rothamsted lecture
2015-6 President of the British Science Association
2016 Listed in the Sunday Times Debrett's 500 list of influential Britons
2016 James Callaghan Memorial Lecture, University of Swansea
2016 Honorary DSc from University of Leeds
2017 Honorary Doctor of Laws from University of Bath

University Roles

I am a Deputy Vice Chancellor and a member of the Research Planning Committee. Until October 2014 I was a member of University Council and the University's Gender Equality Champion. I was the University representative on the LERU Working Group of Science Deans.

Selected Recent National and International Committees and Responsibilities

2006-10 1st Chair of Biological Physics Group of the IOP
2006 - Member International Scientific Committee for ESPCI, Paris
2007-8 Chair, EBS Committee Review for BBSRC
2010-11 Chair, BBSRC Committee C; Deputy Chair 2009
2010 Member, Physics Pilot REF panel
2010-14 Chair Royal Society Education Committee
2010-14 Project Director for the IOP's Biological Physics Teaching Project
2011-16 Trustee Science Museum Group
2012- Member Science Museum Advisory Board
2011-12 Member Reports on Progress in Physics Editorial Board
2012- 15 Member Royal Society Council
2010-14 Member Joint Ministerial STEM education Committee
2013- Member ERC Scientific Council and 3 of its sub-committees/working groups
2013-17 Member BIS (now BEIS) Diversity Steering group
2015-17 Chair Department of Culture, Media and Sports Scientific Advisory Council
2015- Deputy Chair Royal Society Planning and Resources Committee
2016- Member IOP Honorary Fellows Committee
2017- Chair of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Panel for REF2021

Outreach

I have been engaged in a variety of events revolving around the public awareness of science, dating from the time I headed up the team of 4 giving the 1995-6 IOP Schools Lecture Series, giving a lecture entitled "Building with Snakes - the Physics of Long Chain Molecules" at ~25 venues around the country. On the back of the L'Oreal Prize I was given a number of opportunities (ranging from Desert Island

Discs to Woman's Hour) to talk about my science to a large audience on the radio. In the last few years I have participated in Start the Week, Essential Classics, The Life Scientific, the 7 Ages of Science, In Our Time (3 times), Private Passions as well as commenting on topical issues on Today. I have been involved with Inspiring the Future initiative in schools and give several school talks a year around the country.

Policy

Through my role as Chair of the Royal Society Education Committee I was involved in discussions with civil servants, SPADs and Ministers and sat on the Joint Ministerial STEM Committee (headed up by the Schools and University Ministers). From 2015-17 I chaired the Science Advisory Council for the Department of Culture, Media and Sports. Within the University I am a member of the CU Science Policy Exchange Advisory Board and regularly meet with CSaP (Centre for Science and Policy) Fellows.

Diversity

2007- 14 Director of WiSETI (Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative)
2009-13 Chair Athena Forum
2009- Patron Daphne Jackson Trust
2009- 13 Member Equality and Diversity Network of the Royal Society
2011-12 Chair L'Oreal/UNESCO FWIS Fellowships Jury
2012 -14 Member IOP Advisory Group on Girls In Physics
2014-17 Member BIS/BEIS Diversity Steering Committee
2015- Lay Member Sheffield University Equality and Diversity Board

Within the University I was the Gender Equality Champion (2010-14) and chaired the Gender Equality Group (2011-15). Nationally, I chaired the Athena Forum and am regularly asked to talk at relevant events (including abroad), such as many other university's Athena Swan events. I have written numerous articles about issues for girls and women in science (eg for the Smith Institute, for Fabiana and for the Fabian Review), and this topic forms a substantial part of my blogs – my personal blog at <http://occamstypewriter.org/athenedonald> and on Guardian science blogs (Occam's Corner collective).

In the last few years talks other than science talks have far outnumbered standard seminar and conference presentations, although they often have some research content.

Talks (other than pure science) since 2011

Outreach and Careers

Imperial Cancer Research Postdoc Day
Edinburgh Engineering Graduate Research Day
IOP (Wales) Schoolteachers Event
IOP (SE Branch)
IOP (East Anglia Branch)
IOP Liverpool City of Culture Event (x2)
Edinburgh Innovative Learning Week
Patrons of the Science Museum
St Paul's Girls School
Skipton High School
Imperial Life Sciences Postdoc Day
2 debates at Hay Philosophy Festival
Science Week Debate on the Future of Healthcare

Science Week Lecture
Oxford Science Society
Cambridge Union Society
CUPS
Recent Appointees in Materials Science
Bedford Girls High
Triple Helix Society
IOP Nanoscience Group Careers' Day
Royal Institution Friday Evening Discourse
Leeds Bioscience postgraduate symposium
Inspiring the Future
Saffron Walden High
St Mary's Girls School Cambridge event
Chesterton Community College
The Other Club
Hinchingsbrooke School
Parkside
Brighton College
Schlumberger Faculty of the Future (3 times)
Hay Festival

School Education

Association of School Educators
Sunday Times Festival of Education
Westminster Forum
Quantitative Skills debate at British Academy

Diversity

Manchester WISET
Osterreichische Naturwissenschaft Gesellschaft
Leicester Athena Swan
Exeter Athena Swan
Leeds WISE
InGov Meeting
Dorothy Hodgkin Day
Hay Philosophy Festival
Triple Helix Debates (twice) on science and women
Eureka Debate on science and women
L'Oreal FWIS Fellowship Day
Launch of ASSET Report
Leeds University Athena Swan
Sheffield University Women's Network
Newcastle Women's Group
Imperial College Athena Swan Lecture
MRC Wikipedia Editathon at NIMR
CU Society for Policy Exchange
Schlumberger Faculty of the Future
Cam AWISE
Royal Holloway Athena Lecture
Merton College Oxford

University of Southampton Campbell Lecture
Sheffield Science Week 2014
Sanger Institute
Churchill College JCR
Women in Science Research Network
IOP Open Lecture
Vitae Annual Meeting
Cambridge University Engineering Department
AMRC Sheffield University
Rosalind Franklin Appathon
Wolfson College IWD talk
Reading University
Edinburgh University Athena Day
Corpus Christi College Girls into Science ERC Gender workshop at ESOF16
Robinson College open day for Girls

General

Sidgwick Lecture, Newnham College
Cambridge International Summer School
University of Kent (open lecture)
St John College (Oxford) Interdisciplinary Institute
Lewis Elton Lecture University of Surrey
European Innovation Convention
British Academy/American Academy of Arts joint meeting
British Science Association Presidential Address
Clare College ECRs
Swansea James Callaghan Lecture

Contributions on Radio (since 2009)

Essential Classics
Today x4
Desert Island Discs
A Good Read (discussing biography of Erasmus Darwin)
In Our Time (x3)
Start the Week with Andrew Marr
Women's Hour
Life Scientific
Inside Science (x2)
Private Passions
Several interviews with Radio 5 and local radio

BBC News 24 x3

Print and Online Journalism

Regular blogger for Guardian Science Blogs and occasional blogger for the IOP's Physics Focus blog and the Huffington Post

2 articles for Observer Comment and 1 for Politics section
Daily Telegraph (1 article)
Interviews with the Daily Mail, Telegraph and Observer
Various articles and book reviews for the THE